

Helpful Local Details for the 2026 HOLMES, DOYLE, & FRIENDS Conference (HD&F)

Last revised, 14 February 2026

HOLMES,
DOYLE,
&
FRIENDS: xi

March 21, 2026

Fairborn DOUBLETREE INN
Formerly THE HOLIDAY INN
DAYTON, OHIO

LOCAL WEATHER: March weather in the Dayton area, like Professor Coram’s appetite in GOLD, is “variable”. Although there are several Internet weather services available, your best bet is the Web site of the dominant local radio and TV station, [WHIO](#). This has the latest equipment (e.g., Doppler high-definition radar) and the largest local staff of certified meteorologists.

CHANGE OF LOCATION: The largest change from previous HD&Fs is that this year we’re moving to the **Fairborn Doubletree Inn** (formerly the Fairborn Holiday Inn—Fairborn is an east-side suburb of Dayton), **2400 Presidential Drive, Fairborn, Ohio 45324, (937) 426-7800** across the street from the campus of Wright State University (hereafter, WSU). A map is available at the Inn’s [Web site](#)—scroll almost to the bottom. Click [here](#) for a better map, though the hotel at press time was mistakenly labeled the “Fairborn Holiday Inn” (it has not been a Holiday Inn since 30 June 2025) and as “Permanently Closed” (it is open). Please note that the following driving directions are not as detailed as the ones in previous editions of *Helpful Local Details*. The first edition of that document was prepared in 2014 when digital maps and other locating devices were not as common as they are now. Drivers from the north or west would do best to rely on the resources built into their automobiles or “smart” telephones. Earlier editions stated that Dayton “is not large enough to merit a full beltway.” However, there is a *partial* beltway: Interstate Route 675 (hereafter, I-675) that skirts the city from northeast to southwest.

ATTENDEES from the *south* or *east* (e.g., Atlanta, Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Louisville, Pittsburgh, New York, Washington, etc.) will have a somewhat *shorter* drive than previously since they can use I-675. Those from the south no longer need to drive through downtown Dayton. The Inn is readily accessible from Exit 17 (N. Fairfield Rd.). Although the Doubletree Inn is visible from the highway, please don’t look for it. If you’re driving south (actually, southwest) on I-675, you will have passed Exit 17 before the Inn becomes visible.

ATTENDEES from the *north* or *west* (e.g., Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Ottawa, St. Louis, Toledo, etc.) will have a somewhat *longer* drive, since there are better routes for you than I-675. At the risk of repeating ourselves, we recommend following the suggestions of your digital device. Although the Doubletree Inn is visible from the highway, please don’t look for it. If you travel north (actually, northeast), you will almost certainly have passed Exit 17 before noticing it.

ADVANTAGES of our new location include approximately equal highway access when compared to the older site; the Doubletree’s larger size, which allows more attendees and vendors; a unified venue for all events (no more trekking to a different site for the Saturday banquet); and last but not least, a far more comfortable and attractive lodging environment.

DISADVANTAGES include the Inn’s distance from Dayton Airport (21 miles, but both Lyft and Über are available) and a higher room rate. We have also reluctantly dropped an old tradition, the Friday Evening Reception in favour of an informal gathering at the Inn’s bar. However, attendance at the reception declined in 2025, even though the overall event sold out.

RESTAURANTS: The Doubletree Inn has its own restaurant and bar. There are several hamburger stands (e.g., McDonald’s, Arby’s) as well as locally owned restaurants (e.g., The Wandering Griffin Brewery and Restaurant, A Taste of Jerusalem [offering Near Eastern cuisine]) nearby.

REWARD POINTS: If you are a member of Hilton Hotels' Rewards Plan (Hilton is the parent company of Doubletree Inns), you may use your accumulated points. Inform the clerk at the Front Desk upon registering.

WI-FI: The Doubletree Inn has free wireless Internet ("wi-fi"). Please ask at the Front Desk for the pass word. Like most public wireless networks, this one is unprotected, and we urge you to have reputable security software installed on your digital device. The more technically inclined may wish to use a virtual private network.

THE BANQUET: ... will be at the Doubletree Inn. No more walking or driving to a separate location for the Banquet on Saturday Evening!

TOURISM: **If you are coming with a spouse or friend who wishes (heaven forbid!) to see the sights rather than go to the Conference but *does* wish to attend the banquet, he or she need *not* register for HD&F. Merely buy an extra banquet admission.** That said, there is much to see in the Dayton area. Dayton was home to the Wright Brothers, inventors of the first aeroplane, and is thus steeped in the history of aviation. The most famous (and most easily accessible from the new HD&F location) area attraction—tied with the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland as Ohio's largest single tourist draw—is the National [Air Force Museum](#) in suburban Riverside, open every day but Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. It is less than ten minutes away by car and admission and parking are free. There is no 'bus service on weekends, but as previously mentioned, both [Lyft](#) and [Über](#) are available in Dayton. One can easily spend an entire day at the Museum, which has a cafeteria (no alcohol). Free guided tours are available. In addition to aviation, Dayton was the "Silicon Valley" of the late 19TH and early 20TH Centuries, a center of scientific and technological advances, from the mechanical cash register of the late 19TH Century to the late 20TH and early 21ST Century electronic point-of-sale device and the associated bar code and RFID, to the automotive self starter and flip-top aluminum can. These are documented (and exhibited) by [Dayton History](#), whose site, unfortunately, is a considerable distance from HD&F. Parking is free, but there is an admission charge except for the restaurants. Interior gas fixtures have been wired for electricity, but otherwise Dayton History's main restaurant, [The Carillon Brewing Company](#) is authentic. It boasts a working, 19TH Century style wood-fired brewery. Beer and cuisine are American from the mid-Victorian period—perhaps a trifle early for Holmes and Dr. Watson.

PUBLIC TRANSIT: For a city its size, Dayton and its suburbs have a good omnibus system run by the Regional Transit Authority (RTA). Route maps and 'bus schedules for the entire metropolitan area can be found [here](#). Unfortunately, traveling by 'bus to the Doubletree Inn to or from the Airport is impossible on weekends, as the hotel is in a suburb with no weekend service. (Fairborn is in another county than Dayton.) Even if you fly in on Friday (the 20TH) a trip by 'bus is a herculean task, involving a change of routes in downtown Dayton and a walk of about a quarter of a mile from the 'bus stop to the hotel. *Once again, please recall that both [Lyft](#) and [Über](#) are available in the Dayton Metropolitan Area.*

BLACK-AND-WHITE PRINTED COPIES OF THIS DOCUMENT will be available at the Conference Registration Desk on Saturday, but obviously the hyperlinks will not work on a "hard" (paper) copy!